Two Happy, Handsome Wives, One Husband in One House.

His Arrest for Another Crime Results in Exposure of His Bigamous Venture.

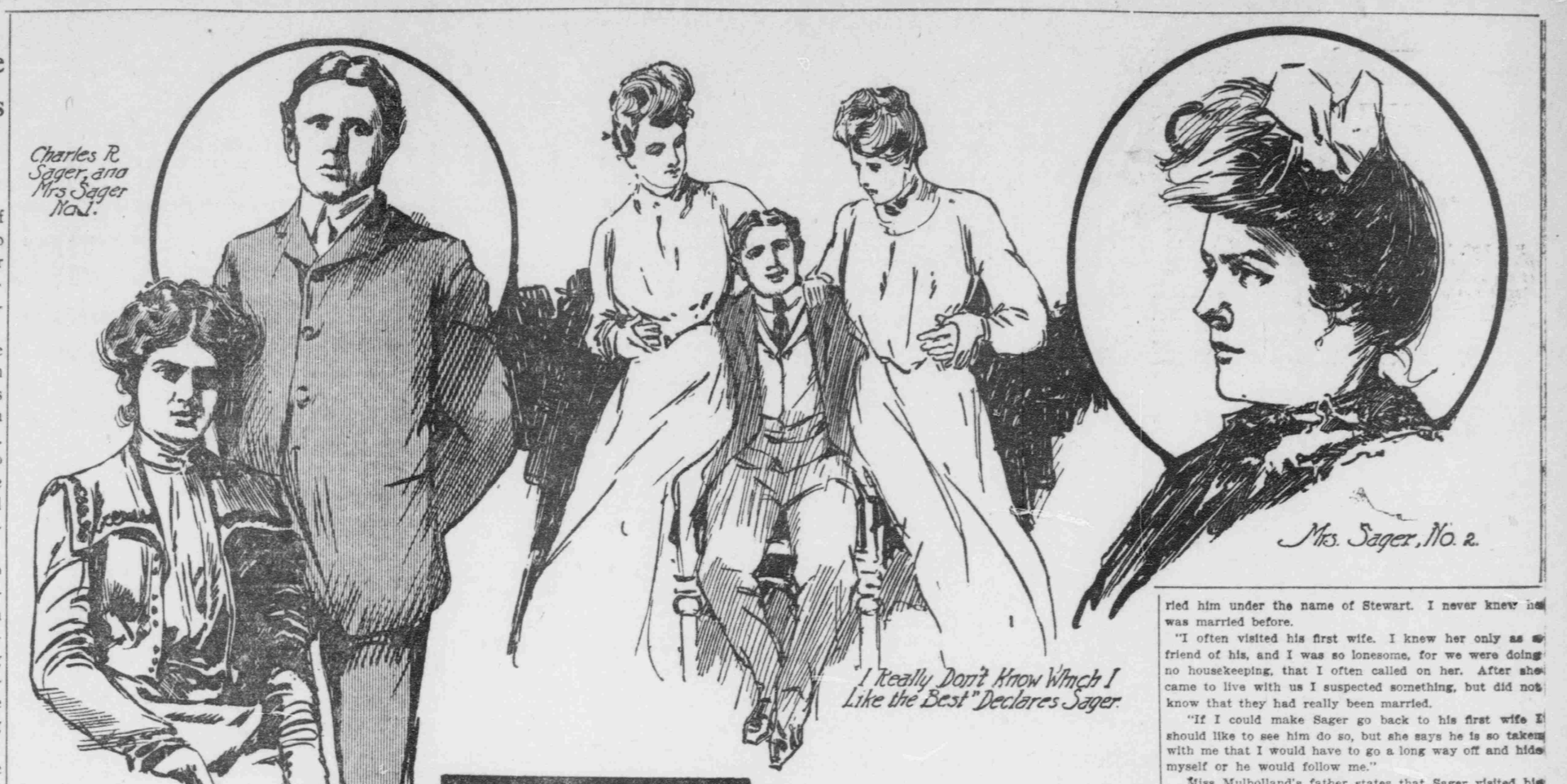
IF ALL reports are true, Charles R. Sager, of Madison, Wis., is a remarkable man. For no one else but a remarkable man could shelter two wives in the same household, as he is accused of doing, and enjoy, all the while, an atmosphere of peace and contentment.

Sager is not the first man charged with the possession of two wives and no acquaintance with the divorce court, but he is the first, so far as known, who has successfully harnessed such spouses tandem, so to speak, under the same roof.

By the unique arrangement which he put into effect the first, and, as asserted, the legal, wife, the mother of his two little children, acted as general servant, while the other woman posed as the feminine head of the household.

So harmonious was the arrangement and so little did the two wives jar that Sager lived in happiness with both. When he was arrested both wives asserted their unalterable fidelity to him; together they visited him in jail, wife No. 2 pushing the carriage in which the baby of wife No. 1 reposed, and each declared her willingness to give Sager up to the other in order to avoid making trouble for him.

This arrangement, it appears, might have gone on indefinitely but for a little police difficulty into which the man tumbled. Even this prosaic happening, however, cannot remove him from the list of truly remarkable men.



In his choice of wives Sager gave evidence of versatile taste and ideals that ran a wide range.

Both women are young and handsome, the first, however, being a tall, blue-eyed blonde and the other a chic, spirited little brunette.

Trouble assailed Sager in a heap when he was arrested, one night recently, charged with stabbing a man in a personal controversy. This incident was not of momentous importance, and would not have revealed to the world the queer domestic life of the insurance solicitor—for that is Sager's business—had he not voluntarily made astonishing acknowledgments on the witness stand at his preliminary hearing.

In extenuation, he is said to have declared that he and his first wife did not get along well together, and that he had intended to secure a divorce, but had overlooked that legal formality.

Last May, he stated, he married wife No. 2. During the following summer he lived with her, but the two women frequently visited each other.

Some time ago Sager took a house in a good section of the city, just around the corner from the residence of the governor of the State, and set up his strange household.

The first and legal wife, it is asserted, took a part of the house, and went there to live with her two children. She also offered to act as servant for her husband and the woman who had supplanted her in his affections.

Sager is well-known in Madison, and has lived there for the last eight years. He is a German, aged twenty-eight, the son of a well-to-do farmer, living near Lake Koshkonong. The home in which he lived with his two wives was but two doors from Bethel Lutheran Church, in which he was married five years ago by the pastor, Rev. Thore Eggen.

The first Mrs. Sager was Miss Bessie Knudson, a Norwegian girl from Black River Falls. She is a striking-looking woman, well educated and refined, but she does not seem to consider her positon in the household anything out of the ordinary.

When she learned of the arrest of her husband she was lulling her pretty two-year-old baby to sleep, with wife No. 2 looking sympathetically on.

Both women declared they would do everything in their power to help their joint husband out of his scrape. They seemed to be on the best of terms.

The second Mrs. Sager was Miss Margaret Mulholland, aged twenty-four, daughter of J. R. Mulholland, a wealthy German farmer, with a scotch wife, living near Valton, in Sauk County, forty miles north of Madison.

WIFE YIELDED TO NEW LOVE.

About two years ago she went to Madison to earn her own livelihood, as daughters of many well-to-do farmers have done for years. During the early days of her residence in the city she met Sager, and, it seems, infatuated him.

Being a kindly woman, the man's wife, when she learned of the state of affairs, simply remonstrated with him. When, as reported, he declared that he could not give up his new love, the two agreed to separate.

How much Miss Mulholland was to blame for breaking up the Sager household is hard to say. She now asserts, it is said, that she was deceived, and did not know that Sager was married. At other times she has made the statement that she expected Sager would get his divorce and that then all would be well.

At any rate, when reporters called on them on the night after Sager's confession neither wife spoke of deception or misunderstanding, and vehemently declared that so long as the three persons most interested were satisfied with the arrangement they considered it impertinent of the courts and outsiders to "butt in" and make trouble.

"Charlie is a good, kind man," said the second wife, "and we shall surely stick to him through thick and thin." Then, turning to Mrs. Sager No. 1, she asked: "Shan't we, Bessie?" To which Mrs. Sager replied: "We surely shall."

And truly they did. For several days they frequently visited Sager in jail, going together, No. 2 wheeling the carriage containing the baby of No. 1, and the two seemingly on the best of terms.

At the jail Sager would kiss both women and kiss the children. He would divide his attentions between the two women and kiss them both on parting. There was no sign of preference or partiality for one or for the other.

Asked on one such occasion: "If you were free and unmarried and had to choose between your two wives, which would you take?" he paused a moment, confusedly, and said:

"Really, I don't know. I can't say. Both come to see me; both are doing all they can to help me, and it wouldn't be fair for me to show any partiality."

Defining his novel household arrangement, Sager remarked: "My first wife was taking in washing and had a hard time to get along. Feeling that she might suffer during the winter, I determined to do what I could to make her comfortable.

How did the two women regard this plan? They seemed to be well satisfied, and dwelt together in harmony. Wife No. 1 revealed her mental processes in the following words:

"I did not wish to wound the feelings of either, by referring to the previous marital relations existing between Mr. Sager and myself, so I never did so in their presence.

"We expected to get a divorce in time, and, of course, considered ourselves as good as divorced. I found out he was going with another woman, from letters in his pockets and tried to make him give her up, but he couldn't. I knew the girl could not escape him, and that he would follow her to the end of the world, and so I finally let him have his own way and marry her.

"We still met, and remained friends, and as I was a friend of his second wife I saw no harm in going to live with them when they invited me.

"It is true that I have been doing much work for this second wife, but it was necessary for me to do something. I did not know where the dreadful thing would end, but I loved Charlie and hated to give him up, and yet at the same time did not dare to speak, and waited, hoping things would turn out all right some way. I am sure I cannot help it."

Mrs. Sager No. 2 in her first interviews did not disclaim knowledge of Sager having been married, and was disposed to resent investigation and to stand by Mrs. Sager No. 1.

"She is such a kind, good woman, and you couldn't quarrel with her. I am sorry for her," she said, "and will do what I can to help her."

Now the situation has changed, however. As her standing as a wife has been questioned, she has gone back to her quiet rural home amid the picturesque hills of Sauk County to await developments.

Before going home she said: "I first met Sager two years ago. He was always known to me under the name of Charles William Stewart. We went together all the time, he asserting to be a single man, and finally I married him under the name of Stewart. I never knew he was married before.

"I often visited his first wife. I knew her only as a friend of his, and I was so lonesome, for we were doing no housekeeping, that I often called on her. After she came to live with us I suspected something, but did not know that they had really been married.

"If I could make Sager go back to his first wife I should like to see him do so, but she says he is so taken with me that I would have to go a long way off and hide myself or he would follow me."

Miss Mulholland's father states that Sager visited his daughter under the name of Stewart, and that he had been driven from the place twice at the point of a shotgun.

At last, finding that the young people were determined to be married, he withdraw his objection, but told them to have the ceremony performed while he was absent from home.

Wife No. 1 has left Madison also, going to the home of her stepfather at Black River Falls. Sager's unique family is broken up, and he is not facing the future with any degree of enthusiasm.

LOOKING BACKWARD.

William Ogden is said to have been the first professional bookmaker. He made a book on the English Derby in 1753.

Newspaper advertisements made their earliest appearance in 1652.

In ancient Rome men only grew beards as a sign of mourning. In Egypt all went clean shaven; but in Assyria only the slaves and peasants shaved.

The first steamer to make a voyage across the Atlantic Ocean was the Savannah, of 350 tons and 100 feet in length. She sailed from Savannah on May 24, 1819, and arrived at Liverpool, June 20. The first steamer to sail from Liverpool for New York was the Royal William, 407 tons. She sailed July 5, 1838, and was nineteen days on the trip.

Before the Norman conquest, Winchester, not London, was the capital of England.

Bank holidays were introduced in England in August, 1871.

The bloomer costume was first worn by Mrs. Bloomer in New York in 1849.

From 1606 to 1688 Scottish bankrupts were compelled to wear a sort of convict dress, half yellow, half brown.

The fife was used in military bands as early as the year 1525 at the siege of Pavia.

Buttons appear to have first come into use in the reign of Edward I of England. The first were made of wood.

In 1830 75 per cent of English people lived in the country. To-day 75 per cent live in towns.

The first catalogue of stars was published in 1509 by Tycho Brahe. It contained 777 fixed stars. The number now visible to the naked eye is over 6,000.

HOLD THEIR OWN SERVICES.

On Sunday afternoons the children of Oakley M. E. Church, New York City, hold services of their own.

This innovation was started by Rev. H. A. King, the pastor, who believes in begining early to train young people in religious work.

He decided to give the children an opportunity to hold services of their own, not conducted by older members of the congregation, and found the young people willing and enthusiastic to take up the plan.

SOME CURIOUS FACTS.

The favorite amusements of Queen Wilhelmina of Holland are skating and riding, but as a child her hobby was the keeping of poultry. Her majesty is devoted to animals, and is averse to sport, as she cannot bear to think of the animals in her preserves being slaughtered.

Elephant's foot takes longer to cook than any other dish. It must be baked for thirty-six hours.

The capacity of the reindeer for team work is remarkable. His hoofs are very broad and do not penetrate the snow crusts. His average weight is about 400 pounds. He will swiftly draw a sled carrying 600 pounds, and with this load can cover thirty, fifty, and even ninety miles a day. Reindeer teams now carry the mails from Kotzebue to Point Barrow, Alaska, a distance of 650 miles—the most northerly post route in the world. No food is carried for the deer. At the end of his journey, or at any stopping place, he is turned loose, and at once breaks through the snow to the white moss which serves as food.

Light blue eyes are generally the most powerful and next to those are gray. The lighter the pupil the greater and longer continued is the degree of tension the eye can sustain.

Champagne takes up much time and care in the making. Altogether a bottle of champagne goes through two hundred different operations, covering a period of two and one-half years. And in addition, it is sometimes kept two or three years longer in the vaults maturing.

In Persia bells ring for prayers five times a day, and merchants, clerks and customers rush off to the mosques, leaving all business at a standstill.

Snails are slow even when it comes to dying. One well-known naturalist, who had mounted a shell upon a card was surprised to find, four years later, that the warm water employed in soaking the shell off the mount had revived the inmate, which he had long supposed to be dried and dead.

Several specimens in another collection were revived in a similar manner after they had lain in a drawer for some fifteen years. These had not been glued to a card, but had been left lying loose, and though frequently handled, had shown no signs of life. They were thrown into tepid water, with the idea of cleaning out he shells, but to the surprise of the owner the snails were found creeping about he basin when he returned to complete the task.

MAN'S VAIN STRUGGLE OF CENTURIES TO REFORM WOMAN'S DRESS.

RASH men sometimes rush in where angels fear to tread. They inaugurate reform measure in politics, business, and even the church, but sometimes their zealous efforts aim at the impossible.

Since Eve first began sewing fig leaves together in the shape of walking suits and evening gowns, man has endeavored to have the feminine costume constructed upon rational—er, that is, upon lines that seemed to his superior and highly practical mind as being the right thing.

Has he ever succeeded? Well, a movement for a masculine-conducted woman's dress reform is going on now, and an observant philosopher has this to say on the subject:

"This is not the first time in the world's history that a plague of extravagant women has been visited upon man for his sins. Once or twice before this evil has been tackled by reformers." Then, a switching to another part of the subject leaves the impression that the "tackling" did not succeed.

Not a few things are past he comprehnsion of mere man, and one of these is the mysteries of feminine apparel—the fashionable raiment and the ramifications thereof with which she persists in "adorning" herself.

Grandness and extravagance of style are always backed up by a conscious superiority on the part of the feminine mind that puts the male objector promptly out of business.

The ardent wooer of Queen Elizabeth's day no doubt railed bitterly against the huge ruff that stood out about his lady's neck like a repelling picket fence.

He could see no more use in it than his descendant of to-day sees in the enormous picture hat—nor could he get around or over it.

But the ruff remained, and men of the period had to do as well with it as they could, which was not very well.

Frequently they got a taste of ruffles in their mouths instead of the nectar of ruby lips.

Really shocking to man's sensibilities, however, was the extraordinary horned headpiece that women of the fourteenth century perched upon themselves.

This consisted of a partly cone-shaped bonnet starting from brow and ears and running thence about west northwest, half west.

From the under side a pair of horns sprang up in a gentle, but extended curve, taking a general course of northeast by north.

Now this "picture hat" of the period was, no doubt, a thing of joy to the woman of that day, but it caused a notable enlargement of the prevalent vocabulary of profanity.

Then there was the extraordinary French style of coiffure that produced a towering bulk of hair upon the head, like piling a luxuriant, fluffy Pelion upon a fair, intellectual Ossa of marble brow.

Opera glasses were not so well known or in common use at that time, and had they been there were no visual aids that could project sight over a towering hill or around a corner.

So the men who attended plays then were in as lamentable a plight as their brothers of modern times were before the "hats off" edict became general.

For some reason or other no one knows why such expectations should ever have animated man with any hope of success—he has attempted to reform woman's ideas of dres and fashion.

Away back in ages past a little book made its appearance—"Quippes for Upstart Newfangled Gentle-women."

Now the title of the work was unkind, in the first place, and the animosity displayed therein was certainly not calculated to win members of the fair sex from their allegiance to the Dame Fashion of the period, no matter how much her decrees jarred upon the masculine mind.

There was another old-time writer ,one Stephen Gosson by name, who laboriously—and, doubtlessly, without effect—produced a work entitled "A Treatyse Shewing and Declaring the Pryde and Abuses of Women Now a Dayes."

When it is said that his learned treatment of an important subject was doubtless without effect, it is meant that history does not record the ensuing sweep of any dress reform about hat period.

Mr. Gosson perhaps went down to his grave "unwept, unhonored, and unsung" by his female contemporaries, and without making the slightest change in the fashions of the times.

At any rate, he freed his soul of its spleen, and that was something to him, perhaps.

Later on, Charles Bansley held up "A Glasse to Viewe the Pride of Vainglorious Women," but if they looked therein they apparently took no heed.

James Day, in 1637, went a little beyond the limits of politeness when he wrote a treatise entitled "Meditations on the Pride of Women's Apparel." His opening words were:

See, how some borrowed, off-caste vaine attire
Can puff up pampered clay and dirty mire.

There may be men to-day with just as strong feelings on the subject, but few of them would venture to call such names.

A later writer, in the same connection, freed his surcharged feelings by referring to "trimmed-up puppets," while still another, with more gallantry and poetic expression, was responsible for "daintie minions."

In condemnig extravagant dress in his time, George Johnson gave expression to a heartfelt weariness by declaring that "gawrish gear gave him grave greevance."

It is related that a bishop of Paris was so outraged by the prevailing fashion in hairdressing, that built out the coiffure with false hair at the sides to resemble the close curled horns of a ram, that he promised ten days' pardon for sin to any one who would shout "Push, ram," at any woman seen wearing it.

Commenting upon this, a writer of the period said: "I believe that a woman who thus decorates and disfigures herself, and who loves and values so much, her flesh, is not much occupied with goodness in her heart."

But all the ancient preachers, philosophers, reformers, and satirists found that they were butting their heads against a stone wall, figuratively.

Not only did the ladies of those olden times keep on wearing the headdresses and other fashions in apparel that pleased them, but from time to time adopted other styles even more odious in the eyes of objecting men.

In the seventeenth century a certain Dr. Smith expressed the hopelessness of the fight:

And when do you think this gear may mend,
And come to be a better passe?
In truth, I think it will never end,
What, never? Then out! Alas!

The unsolved riddle of all the ages is, Do women dress to please men or not?

For a long time—since Adam's day, perhaps—men have fondly deluded themselves with the idea that the fair ones attired themselves with the sole purpose of pleasing the lords of creation.

Man has had many cherished kinks in his brain straightened out with no gentle hand, and yet has persistently returned to his delusions.

He believes even now that by suasion and a show of superior intellectual force he can twist the fashions of woman's raiment to his liking.

But notice the modern hat of maid and matron, and the other incomprehensible details of feminine attire. Should not modern objecting men fold their tents like the Arabs and as quietly steal away?

RAILROAD PROSPERITY.

The railroad reports for the year 1905, according to Poor's Manual, exhibit extraordinary prosperity.

With exceptional gains over the year previous, a comparison of the earnings and profits with the year 1898 indicates the tremendous growth of railroad traffic in this country. Within this period of eight years the railroad dividends and net earnings have nearly doubled. The dividend rate has more than doubled since 1895, being 3.27, as compared with 1.58.

The prosperity of the railroads is founded upon the commercial activities of the country. The only question to be determined is the equity of the tolls which the railroads levy upon commerce. Are the railroads getting too large a share of the country's wealth production? This question is practically in the hands of the Interstate Commerce Commission under the rate regulation law. At the present rate of gain the railroads will soon realize the full value of their capitalization, which is enormous, amounting in the aggregate to $15,568,752,029. No one contends this capitalization represents an equitable valuation of railroad property.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.